



Security Council

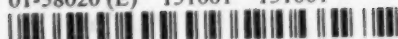
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Letter dated 8 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement of the General Affairs Council of the European Union issued on 8 October 2001, on behalf of the European Union, on action against the Taliban following the terrorist attacks in the United States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean De Ruyt
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement of the General Affairs Council of the European Union issued on 8 October 2001, on behalf of the European Union, on action against the Taliban following the terrorist attacks in the United States

The European Union (EU) declares its full solidarity with the United States of America and its wholehearted support for the action that is being taken in self-defence and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 1368 (2001). The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 are an assault on our open, democratic, tolerant and multicultural societies and are regarded by the Security Council as a threat to international peace and security. The Heads of State and Government of the European Union made clear on 21 September that a riposte to those barbaric acts would be legitimate. Member States have confirmed that they stand ready to act each according to its means. The European Union remains in close consultation with the United States.

All the information points clearly and convincingly to the responsibility of Osama bin Laden and the al-Qa'idah network for the 11 September attacks. A month later, and despite repeated pressure, the Taliban regime has refused to take responsibility for handing over those suspected so that they could be brought to justice. The al-Qa'idah network and the regime that supports and harbours it are now facing the consequences of their action.

The European Union stresses that the carefully targeted action launched on 7 October is an attack neither against Islam nor against the people of Afghanistan, whom the European Union is determined to support and sustain. The European Union and its member States are responding urgently to the humanitarian crisis in and around Afghanistan and have already decided to make available 316 million euros. The Afghan people deserve a government that is truly representative and that responds to their needs and aspirations. Such a government will find a ready partner in the European Union. The European Union believes that the role of the United Nations in this respect is essential.

The military action being taken is one part of a wider multilateral strategy in which the European Union is committed to playing its part. This involves a comprehensive assault on the organizations and financing structures that underpin terrorism.

The European Union will continue its close contacts with the countries of the region and other partners.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.